



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

BILL: House Bill 528 **DATE:** February 14, 2020
SUBJECT: Education – Juvenile Services **COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means and
Education County Pilot Program Judiciary
Workgroup Extension
POSITION: Information Only
CONTACT: Tiffany Johnson Clark
410-260-6028 (Annapolis)
tiffany.clark1@maryland.gov

EXPLANATION:

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing supporting information for consideration regarding House Bill (HB) 528 – Education – Juvenile Services Education County Pilot Program – Workgroup Extension.

During the 2018 Legislative Session, Chapter 565 of the Acts of 2018 (House Bill 1607) was passed and established the Juvenile Services Education County Pilot Program. One of the main endeavors of the pilot was the establishment of a management model for a school in the Juvenile Services Education System (JSES) operated by a county board of education, for a facility located in that county. It also required the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to convene a workgroup to study specific issues and make recommendations related to the management and operation of JSES programs.

The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Board of Education agreed to operate the pilot at the Alfred D. Noyes Detention Center (Noyes) located in Montgomery County. The MCPS developed a project team to support the implementation of the Noyes school pilot and develop ongoing operations. The MCPS is currently leading the pilot project team, which began meeting monthly in July 2019. The county began with the assignment of an Executive Director, to assist in the collaboration between MCPS and MSDE. Collaborative efforts determined that the development and implementation of an evaluation plan will be crucial in determining evidence-based success of the pilot.

The workgroup began monthly meetings in December 2018. Meetings have included a presentation from administrators from Eager Street Academy located in Baltimore City, and a presentation and tour of Noyes and the John L. Gildner Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (R.I.C.A)-Rockville. Both schools are located in Montgomery County. The R.I.C.A. school is a special education school for students with emotional disabilities, autism, specific learning disabilities, and other health impairments, and serve Montgomery County and several counties in the State of Maryland.

After several meetings, the workgroup began discussions of the necessity to request an extension. The pilot officially began on July 1, 2019, and the initial report was due to the Governor and General Assembly on December 1, 2019. The timeline of the workgroup only allowed the summer session and

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two months of the regular school year to review data and national research, and make recommendations involving:

- Whether the pilot program was more effective in meeting needs of the students in juvenile services education programs than the current management model.
- The management model that should be used to provide juvenile services education programs.
- A funding formula that is adequate and appropriate for juvenile services education programs.
- Whether a 9-month or 12-month academic calendar is appropriate.
- How to ensure that students and their educational needs seamlessly and effectively transition between the student’s home school and the juvenile services education program and that students receive credit for their academic progress.
- How to best address staffing, curriculum, and procurement challenges in the current system.
- How to ensure that students in juvenile services education programs have access to post-secondary options.
- How to eliminate disparities in juvenile services education schools in relation to course offerings, staffing, and budgetary support.

The May 2019 Abell report states, “Bringing the right parties to the table, learning from the data, crafting meaningful reform, measuring outcomes, and making lasting change” is needed in the juvenile justice system. With this knowledge in mind, the workgroup respectfully requests an extension of the deadline for submitting the mandated report regarding House Bill 528 – Education – Juvenile Services Education County Pilot Program – Workgroup Extension until December 1, 2020.

Additionally, the MSDE offers the following amendment:

On page 1, in lines 2 and 8 strike “Education County Pilot Program”; and strike beginning with “Education” in line 4 down through “Program” in line 5, inclusive.

The MSDE respectfully urges the Committee to give HB 528 – *Education – Juvenile Services Education County Pilot Program Workgroup Extension* a favorable report.